

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Speicher, US Patent 5996006. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. The invention disclosed in the present application provides flexibility for entry of data and establishing and viewing data relationships by the user not found in Speicher or the known prior art. The present invention provides for establishing proportionality in the entered data and in the viewing of data. As described in the application on page 6 lines 1-11 and FIG. 4, proportionality of data can be entered directly by the user with "sliders" to establish a value for selected criteria. Alternatively, as described on page 6 line 16 – page 7 line 12, the "sandbox" is employed to position the desired traits or criteria relative to other traits/criteria by dragging and dropping the chosen word or phrase in a position in the two dimensional representation of the space with positioning in a bin for greater or lesser applicability for importance to the user, as an example.

Similarly, the presentation of data, i.e. persons with traits or criteria comparable to the user, is provided in a "visualizer" as described on page 11 lines 1- 10 of the present application. The visualizer provides a multidimensional placement of the compared person to the user by a radial distance and a quadrant positioning providing proportionality to the visual display.

Speicher does not disclose any similar elements or limitations. The Examiner's specific reference in his rejection of claim 1 (and claim 15 to which the argument presented below also applies) to "means for proportional selection of predetermined data elements" as reflected in col. 7 lines 50 – 54 of Speicher is in error. That description in Speicher merely provides for input fields for selection. No "proportionality" is disclosed or suggested. The Examiner's identification of means for displaying a representation of the universe of data as single points in *multidimensional relation to a point representing the data of the particular user*, the displaying means *scalable in range from the entire universe of data to data for users in a close neighborhood* of the particular user's profile and characteristic data" (emphasis added) as present in FIG. 6, characters 1021 and 1027; and col. 8, lines 34-45 is also in error. The characters 1021 and 1027 are merely text entries that state a match. No proportional relationship of the data is provided much less a positioning of data in "*multidimensional relation to a point representing the data of the*

particular user” or scalability of the display from “*the entire universe of data to data for users in a close neighborhood*” as provided by the present invention as specifically claimed. The elements in Speicher referenced by the Examiner are merely data presentation in text format. No “expansion” of data is provided for such as that enabled by the present invention as described on page 12 lines 3- 12 and specifically claimed; “means for expansion of a selected one of the single points for display of the profile and characteristic data of the user associated with the selected one single point”. FIG 9 of Speicher and the referenced description merely provides for response to a selected “result” not an expansion of the data presented for the result. This element is claimed in further detail in claim 5.

With respect to the Examiner’s rejection of claims 2 and 16, the reference to col. 7 lines 50-56 again merely provides for selection of various specific text criteria without any applied proportionality or relevance as in the present invention. The sliders provided in the present invention allow for selection of a criterion and then definition of a range of applicability using the “slider”.

With respect to the Examiner’s rejection of claims 3 and 17, Speicher makes no disclosure or suggestion of element such as the “sandbox” in the present invention. The “sandbox” and its function are described on page 6 line 16 – page 7 line 12 of the present application. FIGs. 2 - 4 and 6 of Speicher are merely text entry selection elements and provide no relative positioning or proportionality of the data.

The Examiner’s assertion that FIG. 6 of Speicher discloses “proportionality bins” is in error. FIG. 6 merely provides text data entry. No proportionality is established as required by claim 4. As previously described, the “bins” in the present invention allow a selected term to be “dropped” into that bin, as describe on page 6 lines 22 – 26 of the present application and FIG. 5a, to provide a weighting or proportional value for calculation and subsequent placement/presentation in the visualizer as well as determining “closeness” of the specified characteristics for the user and the collaboration contact. The operation of the proportionality bins is further explained on page 7 lines 1- 12.

Claims 5 and 20 relate to expansion of data from a point presented on the visualizer to a set of text data as described on page 12 lines 3 – 12 and FIG. 8 of the

present application. Speicher makes no disclosure or suggestion for such expansion of data, particularly in view of the additional limitations provided in claims 1 and 15 from which claims 5 and 20 depend. Speicher merely allows data to be presented according to selections from a tabular presentation.

With respect to claims 6 and 21, the argument presented above with respect to the independent claims from which these claims depend demonstrates the elements and limitations of the combination presented in the claims as a whole that is not disclosed or suggested by Speicher. The applicants respectfully contend that when taken not merely as a single element but as a combination of all elements, as required, these claims are allowable.

With respect to claims 7 and 22, the argument presented above with respect to the independent claims from which these claims depend demonstrates the elements and limitations of the combination presented in the claims as a whole that is not disclosed or suggested by Speicher. The applicants respectfully contend that when taken not merely as a single element but as a combination of all elements, as required, these claims are allowable.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 8 and 23 is not supported by Speicher. The present invention provides that data provided by the visualizer employs icons with multiple colors or other indicia regarding the data available as described on page 11 line 20 – page 12 line 2. The disclosure referenced by the Examiner in Speicher merely provides cuing for data entry and provides no indication of any varying nature of data presented by the system. Similarly with respect to claims 9 and 24 and 10 and 25, Speicher merely discloses icons such as the camera for input or retrieval of additional data in FIG. 9. There is no disclosure that icons themselves have secondary indicia to indicate various alternative data available for a selected point such as an icon on the visualizer in the present invention.

The assertion by the Examiner that col 14 lines 41-42 of Speicher discloses “radial location and distance” as an indication of the multidimensional relation is in error. Speicher discloses only the presence of icons on an “add” format to indicate the origin of the add. No proportional value is disclosed or suggested in any form.

With respect to claims 12 and 27, 13 and 28, 14 and 29, and 18 the argument presented above with respect to the independent and/or intermediary claims from which these claims depend demonstrates the elements and limitations of the combination presented in the claims as a whole that is not disclosed or suggested by Speicher. The applicants respectfully contend that when taken not merely as a single element but as a combination of all elements, as required, these claims are allowable.

With respect to claim 19, the Examiner's assertion that proportionality bins are disclosed in Speicher is not correct as argued above with respect to claim 4.

The applicants believe that all claims in the application are in condition for allowance as argued above and action by the Examiner in that regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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